

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were presented for examination. Claims 1-4, 11-22, and 29-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claims 1-4, 11-12, 19-22, 29-30, and 37-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). By this Response, claims 1-4, 11-22, and 29-40 have been cancelled without prejudice. The rejections of claims 1-4, 11-22, and 29-40 are presently moot.

Claims 5-10 and 23-28 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this Response, claims 5-10 and 23-28 have been amended in independent form incorporating the limitations of the respective base claims. No new matters have been introduced. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, and allowance of all pending claims are hereby respectfully requested.

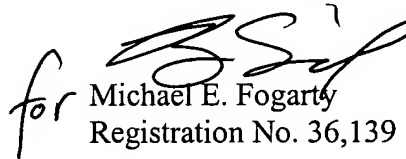
Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

10/765,993

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

for  #46,692
Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF/QH:llg
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: July 14, 2006

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as our correspondence address.**